

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 18639 01 OF 02 081818Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----004248 081834Z /47
R 081805Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2963
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18639

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL, PFOR, US, GW
SUBJ: RFE/RF: HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) BONN 16930; (B) BONN 16754

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RFE/RL IS CONFIDENT THAT THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION APPLICATION WILL BE APPROVED. APPROVAL MAY TAKE SOME TIME, HOWEVER, AND IT WILL INCLUDE A RESERVATION (VORBEHALT) REGARDING BROADCASTING CONTENT AND FRG FOREIGN POLICY. THE LATTER WILL BE ALONG THE LINES OF THE QUALIFICATION ALREADY IN EXISTENCE (RFE-FOREIGN OFFICE LETTER OF JULY 7, 1955) AND "WOULD NOT BE UNACCEPTABLE" TO THE US. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RFE/RL (BAUCH) TOLD US NOVEMBER 7 THAT WE CAN ASSUME THE HOLZKIRCHEN REQUEST WILL BE APPROVED BY BOTH THE FOREIGN AND POSTAL MINISTRIES. WHILE HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OPPOSITION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, HE COULD NOT ENTIRELY EXCLUDE THIS POSSIBILITY. CONFIDENTIAL

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BAUCH EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS ANXIOUS TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY. THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO OUR REQUEST HAD PERHAPS GIVEN A MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF FOREIGN OFFICE THINKING ON THE RADIOS.

2. BAUCH SAID WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE POSTAL MINISTRY ON HOLZKIRCHEN HAD THUS FAR PRODUCED

AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS. BOTH MINISTRIES WERE FAVORABLY
DISPOSED TO THE APPLICATION. A FURTHER DISCUSSION
WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY AND IF THIS, TOO, REVEALED
NO PROBLEM--AND BAUCH DID NOT EXPECT ANY--THE
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE WOULD BE INFORMED THAT A POSITIVE
RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED. IF
THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE DID NOT INTERCEDE, AND BAUCH
DID NOT BELIEVE THEY WOULD, THE REQUEST WOULD BE
APPROVED. BAUCH DECLINED TO ESTIMATE HOW LONG THIS
PROCESS WOULD TAKE.

3. BAUCH SAID PROJECTED FRG APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST
WOULD BE COUPLED WITH SOME KIND OF RESERVATION CLAUSE
REGARDING BROADCASTING CONTENT AND FRG FOREIGN POLICY.
THIS RESERVATION (VORBEHALT) WOULD BE "ALONG THE
LINES" OF THAT CONTAINED IN A LETTER OF JULY 7, 1955
FROM THE THEN EUROPEAN DIRECTOR OF RFE, MR. RICHARD
J. CONDON, TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE RADIOS, LEGATIONS RAT DR. FRIEDENSBURG. THE
OPERATIVE PORTION OF THAT LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS
(INFORMAL TRANSLATION): "IN USING ITS RADIO STATIONS
ON GERMAN TERRITORY, RFE WILL REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING
OR FURTHERING ANY POLITICAL EFFORTS WHICH, IN THE
VIEW OF THE FRG, ARE IN CONTRADICTION TO ITS POLICY.
THE FRG WILL CONSEQUENTLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO BRING

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ACTION SS-25

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ANY SUCH CONFLICTS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FREE EUROPE COMMITTEE. IF RFE THEN FAILS TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING OR FURTHERING POLITICAL EFFORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY THE FRG, THE FRG WILL BE ABLE TO NOTIFY THE FREE EUROPE COMMITTEE OF THE CANCELLATION OF ITS LICENSE AND TO DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF BROADCASTING." BAUCH SAID THE EXACT FORMULATION OF THE REVISED RESERVATION WAS STILL BEING CONSIDERED BY FOREIGN OFFICE LAWYERS; HE COULD NOT SAY IN WHAT FORM IT WOULD APPEAR OR HOW IT WOULD BE EFFECTED. IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IT WOULD BE MADE A PART OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE APPROVAL OF THE RFE/RL AMALGAMATION REQUEST RATHER THAN HOLZKIRCHEN. BAUCH SAID THE FORMULATION "WOULD NOT BE UNACCEPTABLE" TO THE US.

4. COMMENT: BAUCH'S OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTLOOK FOR THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST IS THE THIRD SUCH REACTION (REF A) WE HAVE RECEIVED OF LATE. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE WORKING LEVEL IN THE CHANCELLERY ARE IN FAVOR OF OUR REQUEST. THEY ARE SIMILARLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CHANCELLOR WILL NOT SEEK TO BLOCK A FAVORABLE RESPONSE. WHILE WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ARE NOT COMPLETELY SANGUINE IN VIEW OF SCHMIDT'S OFT-EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. STOESEL

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